COUNTRY Lebanon

SUBJECT Financing of Communist Candidates
in National Elections

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE DISTR 30 APR 51

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
CLISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

since 16 March the Beirut Regional Committee of the Communist Party has been raising money to finance communist-supported candidates in the national elections by selling subscription tickets at one Lebanese pound each. The tickets state that the candidates represent the "Popular Democratic Front." \*\* Fifteen thousand tickets have been printed - emough to cover the five thousand pound deposits of the three communist-backed candidates, \*\*\* Mustafa al-'Aris, Antum Tabit, and Krikor Khacherian, \*\*\*\*

the campaign photographs of al-Varis, which describe him as "the candidate of the workers and people's groups." were printed at the al-Najjah Press in Behrut and were paid for by Viktor Nikulin of the Soviet Legation.

25X1X 3. a meeting of Communists was held on the evening of 17 March in Tripoli at the home of a Khara'ki whose first name the informant did not know. The chief subject under discussion at the meeting was the forthcoming national election. The following were among those present at the meeting: Mustafa al-'Aris, Yusuf al-Hilu, Antum Tabit, George Sarkis, and a Jubran Akkawi.

25X1X 4. three thousand Lebanese pounds was displayed at the meeting. The diamond was in the possession of George Sarkis, who said that it had been received from the Israeli Communist Party to assist the Lebanese Communist Party in the coming elections.\*\*\*\*\*

25X1A

If any communist candidates file for election, they must do so as independent candidates, as the Communist Party is officially outlawed in Lebanon. Each candidate must post an election bond of five thousand Lebanese pounds, which is returned if the candidate receives a certain minimum number of votes. If he does not receive enough votes, the bond is forfeited.

-- 1711

			CLAS	SSIFICAT	MAR	4DEN	CONTRO	or u.	s. of	FICIALS	ONLY			
STATE P	v )	the state of the s									orthine. The dispulsers while they			
ARMY	1	AIR		FBI							-			
	A	.pprov	ved Fo	r Relea	se 19	99/09/0	9 : Cl/	N. CI At	o Char ] Decl ass. C ith.:	nt No ige in Cla assified kanged To HR 70-2	o: TS	. •	1-7	to a

CONFIDERAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1A

25X1A

n. 2...

The report that the Communist Party is

backing three candidates contradicts an earlier report

which stated that Mustafa al-"Aris would be the sole candidate;
receiving the support of the Party. The more recent announcement
that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of al-"Aris has
given rise to the belief that his name will be withdrawn and
that of Sa'd al-Din Muminah substituted.

25X1A

\*\*\*

Erikor Khacherian was estensibly a neutral, independent Armenian candidate, but was actually a member of the leftist Hinchak Party.

25X1A

cut diamonds are being smuggled into Lebenon from Israel in increasing numbers.

CONTINE MONTROL U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY